CHESHUNT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year

1937

by

JOHN McCLYMONT, M.D.,

M.B., C.M., M.O.H.





To the Chairman and Members of the ____ Urban District Council of Cheshunt.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Report for the year 1937. It is regulated, as before, in answer to the usual questionnaire from the Ministry of Health. The report of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Sykes, is included; and one adds with regret that it is his last one. In my twenty years work with him he has always been a very pleasant associate, and in his thirty-five years service under the Cheshunt Council he has been a loyal, tactful and able official.

From a sanitary point of view the report is a very satisfactory one.

The considerable increase in the birth rate will be noticed with approval.

I have to thank particularly the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspectors for the figures and notes from their departments.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,
JOHN McCLYMONT, M.D.,
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE CHESHUNT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health (part time):

JOHN McCLYMONT, M.D., M.B., C.M.

Sanitary Inspectors:

FRANCIS SYKES, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Certified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, Superintendent of the Ambulance and Refuse Collection Services,

Inspector under the Petroleum Acts.

(Retired February, 1938, and succeeded by Mr. C. Wilson, M.R.San.I., etc.)

S. H. BEYER, A.R.San., M.S.I.A., Certified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

District Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator:
A. W. P. SMYTH, L.R.C.P. and S.I.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS UNDER THE HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Tuberculosis Centre:

A. P. FORD, M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic:

HELEN E. ORMSTEIN, D.P.H.

Dental Clinic:

G. LEDGER, L.D.S.

Nurses at Welfare Centre:

Miss Freston, Queens' Nurse, S.R.N., Cert. Midwife.
Miss Freer, Queens' Nurse, S.R.N., Cert. Midwife.
Miss Hughes, Cert. Midwife.

MRS. MILTON, Cert. Midwife at Goffs Oak.

APPENDIX 1.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

AREA.

The area of Cheshunt has not been altered, viz.: 8,480 acres.

POPULATION.

The department of the Registrar-General estimates the population as being 16,620 in the middle of 1937. This is an increase of 530. The natural increase by the number of births over deaths is 126 and this estimated figure allows only 404 for the occupants of the additional 264 new houses. Calculating from these figures the number of inhabitants per house is only 3.5.

| Number of inhabited houses) | 1936 | 1937 |
|---------------------------------|-------|----------|
| on the Rate Books S | 4,477 | 4,741 |
| Rateable Value | | £105,333 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate | | £417 |

Social Conditions and Occupations.

The glasshouse industry is the principal one of the parish and over 2,600 employees are engaged in that work. At a recent enquiry, to the surprise of all concerned, it was shown that the area under glass was still increasing slightly, notwithstanding the demolition of many of the old nurseries—the land on which they stood becoming valuable building sites. This growth was due to enlargement of several of the larger businesses. 449 acres are under glass in Cheshunt alone. The surrounding factories and the nurseries have been exceedingly busy during the year, and except for a very small seasonal dismissal in the latter trade, unemployment has been the exception. Only 59 cases have received help from the Public Assistance Committee as against 130 and 162 in the two previous years.

Vital Statistics.

| | | | Male | Female | Total |
|---|---|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Live Births | Legitimate | • • • | 150 | 141 | 291 |
| | Hlegitimate | • • • | 7 | 3 | 10 |
| Still Births | ••• | • • • | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| Deaths | • | | 97 | 78 | 175 |
| Birth rate pe | er 1,000 of the | рори | lation | • • • | 18.1 |
| Still birth rate per 1,000 total births | | | | • • • | 22.7 |
| Death rate per 1,000 of the population | | | | | 10.5 |
| Deaths from | Puerperal car | ises | | ••• | 1 |
| Death rate p | per 1,000 total | births | 3 | • • • | 3.3 |
| Deaths from | Puerperal Se | psis | | • • • | 1 |
| Deaths from | other Puerpe | ral ca | uses | | 0 |

| Death rate of infants unde | er 1 yea | ar of age | : | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|------------|------|------|--|
| All infants per 1,000 |) live b | irths | | 33.2 | |
| Legitimate infants | per 1,0 | 000 legiti | | | |
| mate live births | s | | • | 33.2 | |
| Illegitimate infants | per 1,0 | 00 illegit | i- | | |
| mate live births | s | | | 0 | |
| Deaths from Cancer (all a | iges) | • | | 22 | |
| Deaths from Heart Disea | ses (all | ages) . | | 45 | |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) | | | | | |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) | | | | | |
| Deaths from Diarrhœa (u | inder 2 | years of | age) | 2 | |
| | 1934 | 1935 | 1936 | 1937 | |
| Birth rate | 13.8 | 15.7 | 14.8 | 18.1 | |
| Death rate | 9.0 | 10.7 | 11.1 | 10.5 | |
| Infantile Death rate | 69.3 | 48.8 | 42.0 | 33.2 | |

CAUSES OF SICKNESS OR INVALIDITY.

Time, place or people are generally most blessed that have little history, and 1937 has been uneventful except for the scarcity of infectious disease. Only 79 notifications were received as against 445 in 1936. A mild epidemic of influenza was prevalent at the beginning of the year, and pneumonia and influenza—pneumonia—24 cases—head the list of notifiable diseases. A considerable amount of diarrhæa affected the parish in the autumn. In some adjacent districts some of these cases were regarded as dysenteric, but there was no evidence that this was the case in Cheshunt.

There are no special diseases connected with the chief industry of the district, which may indeed be regarded, by comparison, as a healthful occupation.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

| | | | Μ. | F. |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------|----|----|
| ALL CAUSES | ••• | | 97 | 78 |
| Typhoid and Paratypho | id | • • • | 0 | 0 |
| Measles | ••• | • • • | 0 | 0 |
| Scarlet Feyer | | | 1 | 0 |
| Whooping Cough | | • • • | 0 | 0 |
| Diphtheria | | • | 0 | 0 |
| Influenza | • • • | • • • | 3 | 3 |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever &c | | • • • | 0 | 0 |
| Tuberculosis of Respirat | ory Syster | n | 4 | 0 |
| Tuberculosis, other form | s | | 3 | 0 |
| Cancer | • • • | | 13 | 9 |
| Diabetes | | | () | 3 |
| Cerebral Hæmorrhage, | Кс | | 1 | 2 |
| Heart disease | | | 21 | 23 |
| Aneurysm | • • • | ••• | 1 | 0 |
| Other circulatory disease | es | | 6 | 5 |
| Bronchitis | ••• | | 2 | 1 |
| Pneumonia | | | 5 | 7 |
| Other Respiratory diseas | ses | • • • | 1 | 2 |
| Peptic ulcer | | • • • | 3 | 1 |
| Diarrhœa under 2 years | • • • | | 2 | 0 |
| Appendicitis | | | 1 | 0 |
| Cirrhosis of liver, &c. | | | 0 | 0 |
| Other digestive diseases | | | 2 | 1 |
| Acute and chronic nephr | itis | | 4 | 5 |
| Puerperal sepsis | | | 0 | 1 |
| Other puerperal diseases | ••• | | 0 | 0 |
| Congenital debility, prem | ature birth | n, etc. | 7 | 3 |
| Senility | | • • • | 0 | 2 |
| Suicide | • • • | | 2 | 0 |
| Other violence | | | 4 | 3 |
| Other defined diseases | | * * * | 11 | 7 |
| Ill defined diseases | | • • • | 0 | 0 |
| Diarrhœa over two years | • • • | • • • | 0 | 0 |

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services.

- 1. (i) Public Health Officers. A list of officers is given at the beginning of this report.
- (ii) (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES. These arrangements have not been altered since last year.
- (b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES. An ambulance is maintained by the Council for the removal of accident and non-infectious cases. No charge for its use is made to residents of the parish to places within a radius of 15 miles of the Ambulance Station, Turners Hill. The following table shows the number of occasions on which the Ambulance has been used each year for the past four years.

| | 1934 | 1935 | 1936 | 1937 |
|------------------|---------|------|------|------|
| Street Accidents | 40 | 46 | 51 | 37 |
| Other cases | 93 | 144 | 299 | 396 |
| | | | | |
| Total | 133 | 190 | 350 | 433 |
| | | | | |

It will be noted that there is no increase in use for street accidents, but that for other cases there is a great increase in the number of calls.

At present the Ambulance service appears to be adequate for the needs of the district.

The Ambulance for infectious cases was taken over by the East Herts Joint Hospital Board on April 1st.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME. As usual the great usefulness of the District Nurses is shown by the following figures indicating the large amount of work done:—

| | | | Cases | Visits |
|-------------------------|--------|----------|-------|--------|
| Midwifery (without doct | or) | • • • | 33 | 578 |
| Midwifery (with doctor) | | • • • | 94 | 1,693 |
| General | | | 293 | 4,385 |
| Mental Defects | ••• | • • • | | 425 |
| Infant Health | | ••• | | 5,094 |
| Ante-natal | * * * | • • • | | 630 |
| Casuals | ••• | | | 2,117 |
| Tuberculosis | • • • | • • • | 29 | 260 |
| Boarded-out Children | • • • | | | 129 |
| Minor Ailments | • • • | • • • | | 125 |
| Visits to Parents | * * * | | | 372 |
| Attendances at Clinics | | • • • | | 326 |
| Attendances at Schools | (heads | s, etc.) | | 194 |

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS. The clinics continue as before at Greenfield House. Numerous children are referred to the Dental & Eye Clinics from the schools. The following is the list of work done by Dr. Ormstein at the Child Welfare and Antenatal Clinic—the most important of the group.

| No. of child welfare clinics | • • • | ••• | 51 |
|----------------------------------|---------|--------|------------|
| No. of children on the books | * * * | • • • | 442 |
| No. of children's attendances | | | 3,670 |
| Average attendance | • • • | • • • | 7 2 |
| No. of children who had dental t | treatme | nt | 25 |
| No. of nursing mothers who had | dental | treat- | |
| ment | • • • | • • • | 6 |

| No. of children referred for orthopædic treat- | |
|--|-----|
| ment | 6 |
| Deaths of children \ under 1 year | 1 |
| attending clinic) over 1 year | 1 |
| No. of children immunized against Diphtheria | 15 |
| | |
| Ante-natal Clinic. | |
| No. of clinics | 26 |
| No. of expectant mothers on books | 158 |
| No. of attendances by the mothers | 651 |
| Average attendance | 25 |
| No. of expectant mothers referred for dental | |
| treatment | 13 |
| Post-natal attendances | 7 |
| No. of deaths amongst expectant mothers | |
| attending | 0 |

(e) Hospitals. The Isolation Hospital, in a County scheme for grouping available accommodation, etc., was taken over by the East Herts Joint Hospital Board on April 1st. During the year 51 cases were admitted for treatment. Recently only cases of scarlet fever have been admitted from Cheshunt and the other districts under the Board's jurisdiction, such as—Hatfield, Hoddesdon and Bishops Stortford. The outside areas have sent 20 patients. The Cheshunt Cottage Hospital is voluntary Hospital in which there are 16 beds. In-patients treated during the year numbered 107; out-patients 422; and 74 operations were performed.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. (i) Water.

Except in the case of a few houses in the rural area, the entire district is supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board. Since the epidemic of typhoid fever in Croydon, a certain public anxiety has prevailed in regard to the purity of the water supplied. The appended report, recently received from the Board, should set all doubts at rest as to the purity of our water and it evidences the great supervision exercised over the London water supply.

"The supply for Cheshunt consists of filtered Thames water from the Board's Kempton Park works, supplemented with water drawn from wells in the chalk. The Thames water, after prolonged storage in the Queen Mary reservoir, is subjected to dual filtration and terminal chloramination.

"Samples of raw water and finally chloraminated water are examined bacteriologically on every working day, and the intermediate stages at frequent regular intervals, and a standard of bact.coli absent from 100 ml. is maintained on the chloraminated water.

"With regard to the supplementary supplies, the wells are sunk in chalk overlain with a bed of London clay, and consequently the possibility of local surface pollution is precluded. The wells are subjected to bacteriological examination three times a week and maintain a high standard of purity similar to that in the case of

the river water. In the event of any of the wells revealing indications of strain the application of chloramine would be considered."

Complaints as to the character of drinking water at a few nurseries were investigated. The water came from artesian wells and was found to contain occasionally a few drops of oil. This had escaped from the compressor pump, and such mechanical contamination is easily remedied.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage.

The whole question of the improvement of the sewerage facilities in the district has been held in abeyance during the past year awaiting the outcome of the Bill before Parliament with reference to the question of the main drainage in the East Middlesex area. After protracted negotiation, it now appears that Cheshunt may be included in this scheme. If such be the case, the sewage disposal will become the responsibility of the Drainage Board within a period of about five years. Meanwhile certain minor improvements at the sewage disposal works are in hand. During the past year sewerage facilities have been extended by the laying of a sewer along part of the Cambridge Arterial Road, and a contract has been let for extension of the sewer along Newgate Street Road. A few of the new houses having cesspools have now been connected to the general sewerage system.

2. Rivers and Streams.

These, as before, are generally under the supervision of the Lee Conservancy Officials. Our own sanitary staff makes regular inspections. One stream was found polluted by sewage, and the necessary action was taken.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

All houses in the populous centres of the district are provided with water closets. Several houses in a recently sewered road, which previously had cesspools, were connected to the general sewerage system. In the outlying and rural districts cesspools prevail.

(ii) Public Cleansing.

The two dustless-loading "S.D." freighters remove the house refuse to the controlled tip in a disused gravel pit. An additional lorry is hired for extra assistance when necessary. The duty of the cleansing of cesspools is still encumbent upon the occupier of the houses.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Summary of work done through Sanitary Inspectors during the year:—

| Complaints received | 124 |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Houses inspected for defects | 191 |
| Houses demolished | 12 |
| Visits in connection with the over | er- |
| crowding sections of the Housi | ng |
| Act | 308 |
| Visits to slaughter-houses | 106 |
| Visits to cowsheds, dairies and mil | k- |
| shops | 47 |
| Visits to stables and piggeries | 10 |
| Visits to tents, vans and sheds | 16 |
| Visits to factories, workshops as | nd |
| workplaces | 54 |
| Visits to shops | 45 |
| Petrol stores inspected | 15 |
| Urinals inspected | 12 |
| Outworkers premises inspected | 6 |

| | Visits in connection with refuse col | - |
|--------|--|------------|
| | lection and disposal | . 204 |
| | Houses disinfested | . 39 |
| | Library books disinfected | . 34 |
| | Visits in connection with infectiou | S |
| | diseases | 31 |
| | Inspections of verminous premises | 15 |
| | Visits in connection with rats and mic | e 53 |
| | Inspections of water-courses . | 7 |
| | The following work was carried | out as the |
| result | of notices or letters:— | |
| | Houses repaired, cleansed, etc | 120 |
| | D () | 19 |
| | Gutters and downpipes repaired . | 17 |
| | Dampness in walls remedied . | 13 |
| | Walls re-built, repointed, etc | 12 |
| | Plasterwork repaired | 16 |
| | Cleansing and redecoration . | 17 |
| | Windows repaired | 17 |
| | Doors repaired | 3 |
| | Floors repaired | 6 |
| | Lighting or ventilation improved . | 9 |
| | Handrails provided to staircases . | 7 |
| | Stairs repaired | 3 |
| | Stoves repaired or renewed . | 14 |
| | Coppers repaired | 3 |
| | Sinks provided or renewed . | 7 |
| | Wholesome drinking water provide | ed 6 |
| | Food stores provided | 3 |
| | Closets repaired | 19 |
| | Drains repaired | 14 |
| | Drains cleared | 12 |
| | Yards paved | 9 |
| | Urinals reconditioned | 2 |
| | Dangerous outbuildings demolished. | 2 |

| Watercourses cleansed | | • • • | 3 |
|--------------------------|----------|-------|----|
| Dustbins provided | | • • • | 51 |
| Offensive matters remov | ed | • • • | 7 |
| Cowsheds and dairies re | e-constr | ucted | 3 |
| Premises rid of vermin | • • • | • • • | 12 |
| Gipsy vans removed | • • • | | 6 |
| Insanitary vans broken u | p | | 2 |

(iv) Shops.

No defects have been discovered during the year in regard to ventilation, heating or sanitary conveniences, except in the case of one shop to which a new water closet was provided.

(v) Smoke Abatement.

No formal action has been necessary in regard to this nuisance. An interview with the manager and stokers at one factory successfully removed the cause of one complaint.

(vi) Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public baths. The swimming pool privately owned by the Cheshunt Swimming Club is regularly inspected and found satisfactory. The general public are admitted on payment of a small fee. This pool is of great benefit to the district as several hundred of boys and girls have been taught to swim there.

(vii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

| | | | Council | Other |
|-----|----------------------|-------------|---------|--------|
| | | | houses | houses |
| (1) | Number of houses for | ound to be | ૯ | |
| | infested | • • • • • | . 3 | 5 |
| | Number of houses | disinfested | d 3 | 5 |

(2) These have been disinfested by insecticide applied by spray.

- (3) No action has been found necessary to free from vermin the belongings of tenants before removal to Council Houses.
- (4) The work of disinfestation is carried out by the local authority, by owners of property or by tenants as required.
- (5) Advice regarding prevention of infestation or reinfestation after cleansing is given by the Sanitary Inspectors.

4. Schools.

The sanitary condition and water-supply of the schools are satisfactory, but the buildings and general conveniences of some of the older schools are behind the times. One school in particular is perhaps overcrowded, but the erection of a new and larger building is contemplated. The standard of fitness and the clothing of the children is generally excellent. There was a great freedom from epidemic diseases this year -only 22 cases of notifiable diseases were notified among schoolchildren. In the routine medical inspection 725 children were examined and 81 defects detected. They were mostly, as usual, in respect to tonsils and adenoids (28), teeth (35), and eyesight (15) —and 57 have since been reported as remedied. In addition to the usual notices of infectious diseases from doctors, the headmaster and mistress report illness, and the children are visited when considered necessary. The County Council scheme for the supply of free milk came into being this year. Sixty certificates for free milk were issued, mostly on medical grounds though one's judgment was less strict in the cases of fatherless children or of those whose father was unemployed.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

A local inquiry was held on the 27th July, 1937 in respect of Clearance Orders Nos. 4, 6 and 7, made by the Council.

All the Clearance Order Nos. 1 to 10 involving forty houses were confirmed later by the Minister, and one area comprising two houses was cleared during the year.

Work in connection with the erection of forty houses for re-housing the tenants, and eleven houses for the abatement of overcrowding, was commenced during the year.

Demolition orders were made in respect of twelve houses found to be unfit for human habitation. Ten individual unfit houses were demolished during the year.

The number of families known to be living under overcrowded conditions continues to decrease, viz:—39 compared with 54 and 65 for the years 1936 and 1935 respectively. During the year 264 houses were added to the rate books.

During the year 264 houses were added to the rate books.

Housing Statistics.

- 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:
 - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 191

| 477 | | | Number of a purpose | (b) |
|-----|--|---|--|-------------|
| 59 | which were under the Regulations, | d (1) abov d recorde | Number of cunder sub-he inspected an Housing Co 1925 | (2) (a) |
| 250 | | | Number of i | (b) |
| 23 | or injurious for human | o dangero | Number of obe in a state to health as habitation | (3) |
| 153 | es (exclusive er the pre- t to be in all | velling-hour red to unad and found and found and found and and and and and and and and and a | Number of do f those refereding sub-herespects real habitation | (4) |
| | ithout Service | | ly of Defects du of formal N | . Remed |
| 121 | of informal | consequen Local Aut | Number of or rendered fit in action by the officers | |
| | the Year:— | Powers dur | under Statutory | . Action |
| | 9, 10 and 16 | | Proceedings un of the Housin | (a).—P |
| 1 | | es were se | Number of dof which noting repairs | (1) |

| | (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:— |
|-----|---|
| 1 | (a) By owners |
| Nil | (b) By local authority in default of owners |
| | (b).—Proceedings under Public Health Acts: |
| Nil | (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied |
| | (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:— |
| Nil | (a) By owners |
| Nil | (b) By local authority in default of owners |
| | (c).—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936: |
| 12 | (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made |
| 10 | (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders |
| | (d).—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936: |
| Nil | (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made |
| | (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been ren- |
| Nil | dered fit |

4 Housing Act, 1936 - Overcrowding.

| (a) | (i) | Number of dwellings overcrowded at | |
|-----|-------|--|------|
| | | the end of year | 39 |
| | (ii) | Number of families dwelling therein | 39 |
| | (iii) | Number of persons dwelling therein | 308 |
| (b) | | Number of new cases of overcrowding | |
| | | reported during the year | 11 |
| (c) | (i) | Number of cases of overcrowding re- | |
| | | lieved during the year | _ 26 |
| | (ii) | Number of persons concerned in such | |
| | | cases | 185 |
| (d) | | Particulars of any cases in which dwell- | |
| | | ing-houses have again become over- | |
| | | crowded after the local authority have | |
| | | taken steps for the abatement of over- | |
| | | crowding | Nil |

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops are inspected regularly and a number of the Dairy Farms are producing accredited milk under licence from the County Council. The following licences were granted by the local authority under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936:—

| Tuberculin Tested—retailing licence | - 2 |
|---|-----|
| Tuberculin Tested—supplementary licence | 1 |
| Accredited—supplementary licence | 1 |
| Pasteurised—dealers retailing licence | 2 |
| Pasteurised—supplementary licence | 1 |

(b) Meat and other Foods.

Inspections are made of premises in which food is prepared or stored, and dirty conditions have been speedily remedied by informal action.

All meat found to be unfit for food was surrendered voluntarily to the Sanitary Inspectors. In addition 28 lbs. of fish were surrendered as being unfit for food.

One hundred and six visits were paid to Slaughter-houses during the year.

The following table gives the number of Post-Mortem inspections made at Slaughter-houses. Many of the animals were inspected previous to, and at the actual time of slaughter.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

| Pigs | ā | 477 | | | | 1 | 2 | 8.3 |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| Sheep and Lambs | ī | co | 1 | - t | 6.1 | | 2 | 1 |
| Calves | Ç | O | | | | 1 | | |
| Cows | | Ť | | 9 | 14.6 | | 7 | 19.5 |
| Cattle excluding Cows | | 27 | | | | 1 | | |
| | Number killed (if known) | Number Inspected ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS. | 3 | Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis | TUBERCULOSIS ONLY. Whole carcases condemned | Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis |

(c) Adulteration, etc.

The Food and Drugs and other Acts concerning food are administered by the County Council.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

This work is carried on by County Council Officials.

(e) Nutrition.

There is a special scheme for teaching this subject, except such as is done in the school curriculum or in advice to mothers at the Welfare Centre.

(f) Shell-fish (molluscan).

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the district.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

As stated before there has been a remarkable reduction in the number of the notification of infectious disease. A later paragraph specifies the details.

Strange to say pneumonia heads the list. But as only a minority of the resident doctors report any such cases it is feared that many have forgotten that acute primary pneumonia and influenzal pneumonia are notifiable diseases.

Antitoxines are supplied to the medical practitions on request. Diphtheria antitoxin is frequently given to the patient on diagnosis or suspicion, and before being sent to hospital. Scarlet Fever antitoxin is given at the hospital to certain cases but there is no evidence that it shortens the period of disquamation or convalescence.

Only in one instance was enquiry made for measles serum. It may be well to mention here that for the last sixteen years measles has been a notifiable disease, and despite the many hundreds of cases reported there has only been one death. With notification comes early treatment—if only one visit by the doctor. The policy seems therefore to well justify the expense of notification fees.

Fifteen children were artificially immunized against diphtheria at the Welfare Centre, Greenfield House. But there has been little diphtheria or measles this year to stimulate the parents into a desire for

immunization. All the cases of scarlet fever (except one) and diphtheria were admitted into the Isolation Hospital for treatment. For the last five months however no case of diphtheria has occurred. Several instances of sore throat without rash have been under observation in scarlet fever houses, and sometimes have been regarded as a mild form of the major disease. As no case of puerperal fever has occurred in the parish the co-relation of these three affections could not be estimated.

Recently patients with scarlet fever have been discharged from Hospital on finding swabs taken from the throat and discharges or abrasions being free from Hæmolytic streptoccoci at the end of the third and fourth weeks—desquamation being disregarded. The result, in that there have been no "return" cases, has so far been satisfactory. There have recently been several cases of an apparent second attack of scarlet fever after the patient has been in hospital a month—due to another hæmolytic bacterium of the same family. This is not a milk infection while in hospital as pasteurised milk alone is used. It may be a mixed infection from the beginning, the second disease having a particularly long incubation period.

Influenza was epidemic at the beginning of the year.

No cases of typhoid, malaria, dysentery, anthrax, undulant fever, etc., were reported. But one case of tetanus and one of cerebro-spinal meningitis in Cheshunt inhabitants were notified from London Hospitals.

It has previously been intimated that school notifications of disease are utilized as necessary.

Typhoid and paratyphoid are rare diseases in this district, and as far back as can be remembered almost all cases could be traced to the consumption of shell-fish from an indifferent source, or contracted abroad.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

| Disease | | Cases Notified | Admitted to Hospital | Deaths |
|----------------------|-------|-------------------|----------------------|--------|
| Smallpox | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Scarlet Fever | | 19 | 18 | 0 |
| Diphtheria | | 9 | 9 | 0 |
| Typhoid & Paratyph | oid | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Puerperal Fever | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Pneumonia | • • • | 24 | 0 | 12 |
| Erysipelas | | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Measles | | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever | | 1* | 1 | 1 |
| Tetanus | | 1* | 1 | 1 |

^{*} Reported from hospital in London.

Notifiable Diseases under age Groups.

| | Under 1 yr. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 35 | 45 | 65 and over |
|---------------|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----------------|
| Diphtheria | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Scarlet Fever | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pneumonia | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 |

Prevention of Blindness.

The County Council has initiated a scheme for the further prevention of blindness, and for assistance to, and education of blind persons.

- 1. Medical practitioners are requested to notify to the County Medical Officer all cases of eye diseases which may cause blindness, or cases of actual blindness.
- 2. Cases of actual or threatened blindness will be visited by the Hertfordshire Society for the Blind.
- 3. Arrangements are to be made for the provision of treatment for the prevention of blindness at special hospitals, schools or clinics, etc. The question of the correct and up-to-date treatment of squint should receive special attention.
- 4. It is suggested that financial assistance should be given to secure treatment in special cases.

Cases of squint among school-children are already referred to the eye clinic.

Tuberculosis.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health Regulations, 1925 (Prevention of Tuberculosis). No case of Tuberculosis in persons connected with the Milk trade has arisen, nor has it been necessary to compulsorily remove any person to hospital. There has been the slight increase of 3 in notifications (25 cases) as against that of last year. This may only correspond with the increase in the number of inhabitants. 106 cases are now on the Tuberculosis register.

| | | New | cases | 3 | Deaths | | | | | |
|---------|-------------|-----|--------|--------|-------------|----|---------|-------|--|--|
| Age | | | No | n- | Non- | | | | | |
| Period | Respiratory | | respii | ratory | Respiratory | | respira | itory | | |
| | М. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | | |
| () | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | 1 | 3 | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | | | |
| 25 | 2 | 3 | | | | | | 1 | | |
| 35 | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| 45 | 2 | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| 55 | 2 | | | | 2 | | | | | |
| 65 and | | | | | | | | | | |
| upwards | s 2 | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Totals | 14 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 1 | | |

APPENDIX II.

Birth=rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death Rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1937.

(England and Wales, London, 125 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns), (Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

| ` | C. | | ž Š | • | ′ |
|------------------|---|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| | | | 125 County Borole | 148 Smaller Towns | |
| | | | and Great | (Resident | • |
| | | England | Towns | Populations | London |
| | | and | including | 25,000 to 50,000 | |
| | | Wales | London | at 1931 Census) | tive County |
| 251 (1 | | Rates per | 1,000 Popula | ition. | |
| Births:— | | | | | |
| Live | | 14.9 | 14.9 | 15.3 | 15.3 |
| Still | | 0.60 | 0.67 | 0.64 | 0.54 |
| Deaths:- | | | | | |
| A 11 (3 | | 12.4 | 12.5 | 11.9 | 12.3 |
| Typhoid and | Paraty. | 1 2 7 | 120 | 11. 5 | 12.0 |
| phoid fevers | Tarany- | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.60 | 0.00 |
| CI II | | | 0 01 | - | - |
| nr 1 | | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.01 |
| 0 1 1 0 | • • • • | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| Winooping Con | ab | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.06 |
| DI LUI I | | 0.07 | 0.08 | $0.05 \\ 0.05$ | 0.05 |
| T Å | | 0.45 | 0.39 | 0.42 | 0.38 |
| Y71 1 | • • • • | 0.24 | 0.45 | $0.42 \\ 0.42$ | 0.51 |
| | • | 0 0 4 | 0.40 | 0.42 | 0.91 |
| Notifications:— | | | | | |
| Smallpox | | 0.00 | | 0.00 | |
| Scarlet fever | | $2 \cdot 33$ | 2.56 | 2.42 | 2.09 |
| | | 1.49 | 1.81 | 1.38 | 1.93 |
| Enteric fever | | 0.05 | 0.06 | 0.04 | 0.05 |
| Erysipelas | | 0.37 | 0.43 | 0.34 | 0.44 |
| Pneumonia | | 1.36 | 1.28 | 1.20 | 1.18 |
| | | Rates ner | 1,000 Live B | lirthe | |
| m (1 7 | | - | 1,000 Bive B | TI UIIS. | |
| | ne year | | 00 | | 2.0 |
| of age | | 58 | 62 | 55 | 60 |
| | Diarrhæa | | | | |
| and Enteritis | | ~ 0 | 7.0 | 0.0 | 10.0 |
| years of age | • • • • | 5.8 | 7.9 | 3.2 | 12.0 |
| Maternal Mortali | ity.— | | | | |
| Puerperal Seps | sis | 0.97 | | | |
| 0.1 | | $2 \cdot 26$ | Not ava | ilable | |
| Total | | 3.23 | | | |
| | | er 1 000 Tate | al Birthe (i.e. | Live and Still | ١ |
| | _ | GI 1,000 TOU | ii Dittiis (i.e. | Dive and Sun | <i>)</i> · |
| Maternal Mortali | • | | | | |
| Puerperal Seps | sis | 0.94 | | | |
| Others | | $2 \cdot 17$ | Not ava | ilable | |
| Total | | 3.11 | | | |
| Notifications :- | | | | | |
| Puerperal feve | r | | | | 4.15 |
| Puerperal pyre | | 13.93 | 17:59 | 11.52 | 14.34 |
| 1 derperat pyre | exia | | | | 14 04 |



